Towards Better Facilities

I am happy to report that the membership of the Institution has risen over 24,000 – making IEM the largest professional institution in the country. In fact, IEM has seen a 22% increase in its membership in 2009. To cater to this rapidly increasing membership and the corresponding increase in the activities of the institution, IEM has undertaken to expand its facilities at both the Headquarters in Petaling Jaya, and at its respective Branches.

In the wake of IEM HQ's acquisition of Wisma IEM in 2007, the IEM Branches are making headway to acquire their own buildings which will cater for the expected increase in activities at the State level. For instance, the IEM Perak Branch has just purchased a building, and the IEM Sabah and IEM Sarawak (Kuching) Branches are in the midst of constructing new training centres. It is hoped that with these new and upgraded facilities, IEM will be in a better position to serve its members in terms of secretariat services as well as activities, talks, seminars and forums.

In this vein, in September 2009, I attended the ground-breaking ceremony of the IEM Sabah Branch Training Centre located at the Kota Kinabalu Industrial Zone. In line with the aim of the Federal and Sabah Governments to move towards sustainability, the IEM Sabah Training Centre is being built based on the "sustainable building" or "Green Building" concept which focuses on the efficient use of resources while reducing building impact on human health and the environment through its design, construction, operation and maintenance. The Centre is designed and will operate to reduce the overall impact on human health and the natural environment by the efficient use of energy, water and other resources while at the same time reducing waste, pollution and environmental degradation. This is a clear example of how engineers have come up with new or alternative and yet cost-effective engineering solutions to address current problems.

Throughout 2009, IEM has taken steps to be more pro-active in providing our views and information from the engineering perspective to the public not only in the event of a disaster - such as the landslide incident in Rawang, and the collapse of Jaya Supermarket, Sultan Mizan Stadium in Kuala Terengganu or the Kuala Dipang Suspension Bridge - but also on matters of national interest such as the issue of the teaching of Mathematics and Science in English; Green Technology and other current matters. I truly hope that the Institution will continue with these efforts in the years to come for the benefit of the Nation and its people of whom we serve.

As always, I welcome any ideas and feedback from IEM members on ways to improve the Institution and the Secretariat. Please do not hesitate to air your views and comments for the betterment of the Institution. ■

Dato' Ir. Prof. Dr Chuah Hean Teik
IEM President
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"GO ON, TELL ME... WHAT HAS THE GLOBAL WARMING GOT TO DO WITH THE FACT THAT YOU STILL HAVE NOT CLEARED DEBRIS AT THE RIVER MOUTH ? ? ?"

Note: *A compilation of* ***Shaiky's View*** *cartoons are available, see announcement on page 6.*